


Memo

To: UW-Ext. Education, Agriculture, and Recreation Committee
From: Sam Tobias, Planning & Parks Director 
CC: Allen Buechel, Ellen Sorensen
Date: April 30, 2010
Re: April Report

Riggs County Park-Work is complete on the last section of wetland boardwalk. This completes the planned trail system for the park. Trails are a combination of a main gravel path, two sections of boardwalk through wetland areas, and mowed grass trails totaling about 2.5 miles. In 2009, we planted about 20 acres of prairie grasses. We should start to see the results of that planting later this summer. If the planting last year takes hold, we will have about 40 acres of land remaining to be put back into native prairie grasses and wildflowers; assuming the swimming pond complex is never built in the park. If the budget permits, we will complete some additional restoration work on the original farmhouse located in the west entrance area of the park.

Landfill-Landfill operations were normal since the last report. Work began this month on filling depressions in the landfill cover to restore positive drainage. The County Highway Department is doing this work for us. The landfill is a convenient site for disposal of material from road ditch cleaning the Department does on CTH and town roads. I have a \$7,000 budget for this work in 2010. Filling these depressions is part of our long-term maintenance plan for the closed landfill. The active collection system for methane and leachate has operated without interruption this past month.

Hobbs Woods- The Friends of Parsons Creek continue to meet on a monthly basis. The Friends have begun planning a number of volunteer workdays in Hobbs Woods for trash clean up and removal of deadfall trees from the creek. Our Parks workers have several projects of their own planned or in the works for bridge and trail repairs. We have one and possibly two Eagle Scout candidates that are preparing project plans for remarking the legal trail system, identification and some removal of illegal trails, and work on interpretive signs for the park.

Wild Goose Trail Extension-The extension of our trail from Rolling Meadows Drive to Pioneer Road remains continues on hold. There has been no progress on the railroad track abandonment. My plan is to wait out most of the 2010 construction season and see if the railroad will sell the state the short section of track we need to finish the trail to Pioneer Road by using the shortest and least expensive way possible. If sale of the right of way is not complete by late summer, we will build the trail on a parallel easement across the back of the Mercury Marine and Agnesian Healthcare properties. Finishing this trail segment will allow people to start using the new pedestrian bridge over Highway 41.

Aeronautical Industrial Park-Work continues on phase 2 of the industrial park. The Highway Department should be able to start putting down base material and asphalt the first week of May. Most of the construction should be complete by July.

Wetland Banking-The budget carryover resolution included funding to determine the feasibility and estimated cost of establishing a county wetland mitigation site. I will be soliciting proposals in May for this work.

Shoreland-Wetland Zoning Maps-Mapping work is complete for a new set of county shoreland-wetland zoning maps. I would like to set our June meeting as the public hearing date to begin the process of adopting the new set of maps.

Municipal Storm Water Program-Nothing new in April other than the annual report that was on the April 27 County Board agenda.

Ledge Parkland-No much new to report on progress toward buying land for a ledge park. Bill Casper, a Town of Taycheedah resident, County Board Supervisor in the mid-1960s, and an acquaintance of the property owners from whom we would like to purchase land; is approaching both property owners to gauge their interest in selling land to us for a ledge park. Mr. Casper is part of a local ledge preservation group and has a personal interest in preserving a portion of the ledge for the future.